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succeeded his uncle as administrator of the Jardin des Plantes in 1779, and published two memoirs of great originality and importance on the relative value of characters in the distinction of the genera and orders of plants. In the year 1789 he published his great and truly classical work entitled *Genera Plantarum secundum Ordines naturales disposita*, which caused a total revolution in the science of botany. To the modification and extension of the views contained in that work, rendered necessary by new observations and by the vast accession of new genera and orders, brought from the tropics, South America, Australia, and elsewhere, he devoted the remainder of his life. His later memoirs, many of which are of great value, are chiefly contained in the *Annales*, and subsequently in the *Mémoires du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle*. M. de Jussieu was a man of very simple manners and amiable character, of a social and affectionate temper, and a perfect stranger to scientific jealousies and intrigues. He attained to an extreme old age, and had the happiness of witnessing the almost universal adoption of that system of botanical arrangement, the establishment of which had formed the great object of the labours of his life.

*The Secretary then read the following Report of the Proceedings of the Council since the last Anniversary.*

The Council, on the 3rd of March, adopted a Report, submitted to them by the Committee whom they had appointed for considering the communications from the Treasury and Excise Office, on the subject of the construction of instruments and tables for ascertaining the strength of spirits, in reference to the charge of duty thereon, and ordered it to be transmitted to the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury; who, in acknowledging its receipt, were pleased to express "their best thanks to H. R. H. the President, and to the Society, for the obliging manner in which they had met the wishes of the Board, and to the Committee for the attention they gave to the subject, and for the valuable Report with which they had furnished that Board."

The Council, conformably with the recommendation of the Donation Fund Committee, have granted £50 from that fund to Professor Wheatstone, in aid of the experimental inquiry which he is prosecuting on the measure of the velocity of Electricity when passing along a conducting wire.

A letter from Baron Von Humboldt, addressed to H. R. H. the President, relating to a proposal for the cooperation of the Royal Society in carrying on an extensive series of magnetical observations, in various parts of the earth, having been communicated by H. R. H. to the Council, it was referred to the Astronomer Royal and to S. H. Christie, Esq., for their opinion thereupon. The Report of

his introduction to his great work, published in 1789: though extremely imperfect and in many respects erroneous, it was founded upon just principles, and was in almost every respect superior to those which had been proposed by Linnæus and by Tournefort.

these Gentlemen was ordered to be read to the Society and printed in its proceedings ; and a Committee has been appointed to consider of the best means of carrying into effect the measures recommended in that Report.

A paper, delivered to the Secretary at one of the ordinary meetings of the Society, entitled " Requisition for a Special General Meeting of the Royal Society," and signed by six of the Fellows, stating the purposes of such special meeting to be " to consider and determine the necessity of expunging from the Journal Book of the Society" certain minutes of its proceedings, and also " to consider the principle of a resolution, passed at an ordinary meeting of the Society, by which their thanks were withheld from the author of a work presented by him to the Society," having been laid before H. R. H. the President and Council, they were unanimously of opinion that no special meeting has the power of expunging minutes of past proceedings of the Society. The Council accordingly ordered a Special General Meeting of the Society to be called, for the purpose of taking into consideration only the latter of the two objects stated in the requisition.

Mr. Monk Mason having, in a letter addressed to H. R. H. the President, offered the Great Vauxhall Balloon for the use of the Society, a Committee was appointed to take this proposition into consideration and to report thereupon to the Council.

The Council have awarded a Copley Medal to Baron Berzelius for his application of the Doctrine of Definite Proportions in Determining the Constitution of Minerals. To the labours of this distinguished chemist, science is indebted for many of the facts by which the Laws of Definite Union were established. As early as 1807, soon after Dalton and Gay-Lussac had made known their views on this vital branch of modern chemistry, Berzelius commenced an elaborate examination on the proportions in which the elements of compound bodies are united, beginning with the salts, and subsequently extending his researches to all other departments of his science, as well to the products of organized existences as to those of the mineral world. The first part of the inquiry appeared in a series of essays in the *Afhandlingar i Fysik, Kemi, och Mineralogie*, t. iii. iv. v. and vi., as also in the *Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences of Stockholm*, for the year 1813. Since that period he has almost constantly been more or less occupied with researches bearing, or illustrative of, the same subject. His numerous analyses of minerals enabled him at once to elucidate their nature through the light derived from the laws of definite combination, and at the same time to supply in the composition of minerals a splendid confirmation of the universality of those laws. It is for this branch of his inquiry that the Copley Medal has been awarded.

A Copley Medal is also awarded to Francis Kiernan, Esq., for his discoveries relative to the Structure of the Liver, as detailed in his paper communicated to the Royal Society, and published in the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1833.

Before the researches of Mr. Kiernan, the liver was supposed to consist of two dissimilar substances, composed of brown parenchy-

matous granules, contained in a yellow substratum. The relation of the vessels and excretory ducts to these supposed dissimilar substances was not known; nor, although the organ was considered to be a conglomerate gland, were the glandules of which it was conjectured to be composed, defined in magnitude, shape, or disposition. Mr. Kiernan's discoveries show that in place of two textures there exists but one; and that the difference of colour results from the accidental congestion of one or other of the systems of vessels, which are found in the liver. Mr. Kiernan has further satisfactorily demonstrated the size and limits of the integral glandules of which the liver consists. He has traced the relation to these glandules of the different orders of vessels, which are distributed through the organ, and has explained the mechanism of biliary secretion. He has shown that all the blood employed in secreting bile is venous; and that the origins of the biliary ducts differ in an important respect from the origins of the ducts of all other glands: inasmuch as they form a series, not of coiled or branching tubes, but of anastomosing vessels, constituting a tubular network.

Mr. Kiernan's researches display great industry and ingenuity; when foiled by the difficulties which had foiled preceding anatomists, he applied a principle that had not been thought of before to facilitate the investigation of structure. Hitherto, however eminent the English have been in physiology, (and the most eminent of physiologists, Harvey, was an Englishman,) they have been behind the Germans and the Italians in anatomy. The discovery which Mr. Kiernan has made, exceeds in originality, and in importance is scarcely inferior to any single anatomical discovery on record. Its originality consists in this; it may be estimated from the circumstance that nothing which had been previously done on this subject affords a clue to what *he* has found; and the difficulty of the inquiry may be understood from this; that although many had undertaken it, all had previously failed. The importance of the facts displayed may be gathered from the consideration, that they greatly elucidate the morbid anatomy of the liver,—a part of the human frame, which is remarkable for the frequency and variety of its diseases, and at the same time for the facility with which it may be influenced by remedial agents.

The Royal Medal for the present year, which the Council had proposed to give to the most important paper in Astronomy communicated to the Royal Society within the last three years, is awarded to Sir John Frederick William Herschel, for his Catalogue of Nebulæ and Clusters of Stars, published in the Philosophical Transactions for 1833.

In delivering this Medal His Royal Highness addressed the Society as follows:—

This, Gentlemen, is the second time that a Royal Medal has been adjudged to Sir John Herschel, for researches in a department of Astronomy which has descended to him as an hereditary possession;

and I believe I may venture to say, that in no case has a noble inheritance been more carefully cultivated or more enriched by new acquisitions. The catalogue for which the Royal Medal is now given, contains a list of 2500 nebulae and clusters of stars, the same number which had been observed and catalogued by his father, though only 2000 of them are common to both catalogues; the right ascensions and declinations of all these objects are determined; the general character of their appearance recorded; and all those which present any very extraordinary character, shape, or constitution, of which there are nearly 100, are drawn with a delicacy and precision which is worthy of an accomplished artist. It presents a record of those objects so interesting as forming the basis of our speculations on the physical constitution of the heavens which are observable in this hemisphere, which is sufficiently perfect to become a standard of reference for all future observers, and which will furnish the means of ascertaining the changes, whether periodical or not, which many of them are probably destined to undergo. I trust, Gentlemen, that a long time will not elapse before we shall be enabled to welcome the return of Sir John Herschel to this country, with materials for a catalogue of the nebulae of the southern hemisphere as perfect and as comprehensive as that which we are this day called upon to signalize with the highest mark of approbation which it is in our power to bestow. He will then have fixed the monuments of an imperishable fame in every region of the heavens.

The Royal Medal for the present year, which the Council had proposed to give to the most important paper in Animal Physiology communicated to the Royal Society within the last three years, is awarded to George Newport, Esq., for his series of investigations on the Anatomy and Physiology of Insects, contained in his two papers published in the Philosophical Transactions within that period.

Mr. Newport, to whom the Society was indebted in 1832 for a very valuable and elaborate anatomical investigation of the nervous system of the *Sphinx ligustri* of Linnæus, and of the successive changes which that insect undergoes during the state of larva, and the earlier stages of the pupa state, published in the Philosophical Transactions of that year, has since prosecuted this arduous and laborious train of inquiry, under circumstances of peculiar difficulty, with extraordinary zeal and indefatigable perseverance. Within the period of the last three years he has enriched the Transactions with two papers, in the first of which, read to the Society in June 1834, he has extended his researches into the structure and arrangement of the different portions of the nervous system of the same insect, following their successive changes through the remaining stages of development to the completion of the imago, or perfect state. He devotes particular attention to the study of the periods at which those several changes occur; for he has found that they vary considerably in the rapidity of their progress at different epochs, according as the vital powers are called into action by external influences, or as they become exhausted by their efforts in effecting the growth, or

modifying the form of different systems of organs. The labours of Mr. Newport have determined, with great exactness, those periods, which had not before been ascertained.

Among the numerous original observations of Mr. Newport on the arrangement and connexions of the several parts of the nervous system, the description he gives of the origin and distribution of the visceral nerve, which he shows to be analogous to the pneumogastric nerve of vertebrated animals, and also of the system of nerves corresponding to those which have been considered as peculiarly subservient to the supply of the respiratory organs, are particularly deserving of notice. In the course of this investigation many new and important facts are brought to light, which had escaped the observation of Lyonet, Müller, Brandt and Straus-Durkheim. Mr. Newport has also traced a remarkable analogy in the origin and distribution of the two distinct classes of nerves, the one subservient to sensation, and the other to volition, belonging to insects, with those belonging to vertebrated animals, and has thus given greater extension to our views of the uniformity existing in the plans of animal organization than we before possessed, and which are thus made to comprehend the more minute, as well as the larger tribes of the animal creation.

In a memoir on the Respiration of Insects, more recently communicated to the Society, and of which, at its last meeting in June, the title only could be announced, Mr. Newport has, with great diligence and success, investigated the variations occurring in this function in the different periods of insect development. He has minutely traced the several changes which the tracheæ and spiracles undergo during the transformations of the insect, and has particularly described the successive development of the air-vesicles in connexion with the power of flight. He has given a minute and accurate description of the system of muscles, both of inspiration and of expiration, of the *Sphinx ligustri*; has investigated their various modes of action, with reference more especially to the different classes of nerves appropriated to these functions; and has established a distinction in the offices of these nerves, corresponding to the sources from which they derive their origin, and presenting remarkable analogies with similar distinctions in the nerves of vertebrated animals. He has given the result of a series of original experiments on the products of respiration in this class of animals, and of their variations under different circumstances of temperature, of submersion, and of confinement in unrespirable and deleterious gases; and he has deduced important conclusions relative to the circumstances which govern the properties of oxygen consumed and of carbonic acid generated. He has also communicated various results to which he has arrived concerning the capabilities which insects possess of supporting life during longer or shorter periods, when immersed in different media.

For the original views presented in these two papers, as well as for the mass of valuable information they contain, the results of much laborious and well-directed research in the more difficult departments of the Anatomy and Physiology of Insects, prosecuted

under circumstances which would have repressed the exertions of a less ardent inquirer into truth, the Council have considered Mr. Newport as highly deserving the distinction they have conferred upon him by the award of the Royal Medal for Animal Physiology in the present year.

The Council propose to give one of the Royal Medals in the year 1839 to the most important unpublished paper in Astronomy communicated to the Royal Society for insertion in their Transactions after the present date, and prior to the termination of the Sessions in June 1839.

The Council propose to give one of the Royal Medals in the year 1839 to the most important unpublished paper in Physiology, communicated for insertion in their Transactions after the present date, and prior to the termination of the Sessions in June 1839.

The Statutes relating to the election of Council and Officers were then read by the Secretary ; and Davies Gilbert, Esq., and Francis Kiernan, Esq., being nominated by the President, with the approbation of the Meeting, Scrutators to assist the Secretaries in examining the Balloting Lists, the Votes of the Fellows present were collected.

The Ballot being taken, the Scrutators reported the following as the result :

*President*: His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, K.G.—*Treasurer*: Francis Baily, Esq.—*Secretaries*: Peter Mark Roget, M.D.; John George Children, Esq.—*Foreign Secretary*: Charles König, Esq.

*Other Members of the Council*: George Biddell Airy, Esq., A.R. ; William Allen, Esq. ; John Bostock, M.D. ; The Earl of Burlington; Samuel Hunter Christie, Esq. ; Viscount Cole, M.P. ; Joseph Henry Green, Esq. ; George Bellas Greenough, Esq. ; William Lawrence, Esq. ; John Lindley, Phil. D. ; John William Lubbock, Esq., M.A. ; Rev. George Peacock, M.A. ; William Hasledine Pepys, Esq. ; Rev. Adam Sedgwick, M.A. ; William Henry Smyth, Capt. R.N. ; William Henry Fox Talbot, Esq.

The Thanks of the Society were then voted to the Scrutators for their trouble in assisting at the election.

The following is the statement with respect to the Receipts and Payments of the Society during the preceding year, which was laid on the table by the Treasurer.

*Statement of the Receipts and Payments of the Society between Nov. 28, 1835,  
and Nov. 29, 1836.*

**1. RECEIPTS.**

	£.	s.	d.
Balance in the hands of the Treasurer at the last Audit ..	218	3	8
40 Weekly Contributions, at one shilling .....	104	0	0
103 Quarterly Contributions, at £1 .....	391	0	0
29 Admission Fees .....	290	0	0
2 Compositions for Annual Payments at £40. ....	80	0	0
7 Compositions for Annual Payments at £60. ....	420	0	0

**Rents:—**

One year's rent of estate at Mablethorpe: due at Michaelmas, (less the expenses of de- fending the suit, £13 17 6) .....	93	2	6
One year's rent of lands at Acton: due at Michaelmas .....	60	0	0
One year's fee-farm rent of lands in Sussex; land-tax deducted: due at Michaelmas ..	19	4	0
One fifth of the clear rent of an estate at Lam- beth Hill, from the Royal College of Phy- sicians, in pursuance of Lady Sadleir's will: due at Midsummer .....	3	0	0
Interest to Christmas 1835 on the produce of the sale of the Coleman-street premises ..	42	13	8
	<hr/>	218	0 2

**Dividends on Stock:—**

One year's dividends on £14,000 Reduced 3 per cent. Annuities .....	420	0	0
Dividend on £3452. 1. 1 Consols, the produce of the premises in Coleman-street, sold ..	51	15	7

*Donation Fund.*

One year's dividends on £3820. 19. 3 Consols	114	12	6
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*Pulteney Fund.*

One year's dividends on £200 Consols ....	6	0	0
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*Rumford Fund.*

One year's dividends on £2161. 0. 10 Consols	64	16	8
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*Fairchild Fund.*

One year's dividends on £100 New South Sea Annuities .....	3	0	0
	<hr/>	660	4 9

Carried forward ..... £2381 8 7



	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward.....	2381	8	7
From the Lords of the Treasury, being the amount of sundry items paid on account of the Excise Committee in the present and preceding years.....	135	17	0
Miscellaneous Receipts:—			
Sale of Philosophical Transactions and Abstracts of Papers .....	313	11	8
Sale of Sir H. Davy's Discourses.....	15	0	
	<hr/>	450	3 8
Total Receipts .....	£ 2831	12	3

## 2. PAYMENTS.

	£.	s.	d.
<i>Lady Sadleir's Legacy</i> .—The Poor of the Parish, in pursuance of Lady Sadleir's Will.....	3	0	0
<i>Fairchild Lecture</i> .—The Rev. J. J. Ellis, for delivering the Fairchild Lecture.....	3	0	0
<i>Bakerian Lecture</i> .—John William Lubbock, Esq., for the Bakerian Lecture.....	4	0	0
<i>Donation Fund</i> .—Mr. Wheatstone, for Experiments .....	50	0	0

Salaries:—	£.	s.	d.
Dr. Roget, one year, as Secretary .....	105	0	0
J. G. Children, Esq., one year, as Secretary..	105	0	0
Ditto for Index to Phil. Trans. ....	5	5	0
C. Konig, Esq., one year as Foreign Secretary	20	0	0
Mr. Roberten, one year, as Assistant-Secretary	160	0	0
Mr. W. E. Shuckard, one year as Librarian..	50	0	0
Mr. Gould, one year, as Porter .....	60	0	0
	<hr/>	505	5 0

Fire Insurance, on the Society's Property .....	22	11	6
Mrs. Coppard: Gratuity.....	10	0	0

Excise Committee (*repaid by the Lords of the Treasury*):

Printing Proceedings of Excise Committee	19	16	0
Mr. Russell, for calculating Tables.....	55	0	0
Mr. Jones, for calculating Tables .....	10	0	0
Mr. Newman .....	3	4	4
	<hr/>	88	0 4
Taylor: on account of printing the Catalogue .....	200	0	0
Carried forward ....	£ 885	16	10

		£.	s.	d.
Bills:—	Brought forward .....	885	16	10
Taylor :				
Printing the Phil. Trans., 1835, part 2, and				
1836, part 1; Proceedings, Nos. 22—25;				
Circulars, Lists of Fellows, Ballot-lists,				
Statement of Payments, and Minutes of				
Council, &c. ....	340	10	6	
Bowles and Gardiner :				
Paper for the Phil. Trans., 1836, parts 1				
and 2.....	207	4	0	
Basire :				
Engraving and Copper-plate Printing for				
the Phil. Trans., 1836, parts 1 and 2, &c.	343	9	3	
Walker :				
Engraving for Phil. Trans., 1836, part 2.	54	3	0	
Gyde :				
Sewing and Boarding 1650 Parts of Phil.				
Trans. ....	56	6	8	
				1001 13 5
Mr. Bassett: Surveying, ( <i>last year</i> ) .....	38	19	0	
Few & Co., Solicitors .....	41	9	7	
Tuckett :				
Bookbinding .....	37	6	8	
Chappell :				
Stationery .....	25	17	0	
Saunderson :				
Shipping expenses .....	9	10	3	
Brecknell and Turner :				
Wax Lights, Candles, and Lamp Oil .....	35	16	0	
Skelton :				
Cleaning Chandeliers; and repairing Lamps,				
Locks, &c. ....	7	6	2	
Cubitt :				
Repairing Window Frames, Map Cases, &c.	44	17	8	
Varnham :				
Map Cases .....	14	19	6	
Cobbett and Son :				
Window-cleaning and Glazing .....	1	15	0	
Gwillim :				
Large Mats, Brushes, Fire wood, &c. ....	5	3	8	
Exchequer Fee.....		6	6	
Arnold and Dent :				
Cleaning and Regulating Clocks .....	4	4	0	
Wood :				
For Coals .....	30	16	0	
Troughton and Simms :				
Repairing Instruments .....	7	8	6	
				305 15 6

Carried forward.....£2193 5 9

	£.	s.	d.
Brought forward.....	2193	5	9
<b>Taxes and Parish Rates :</b>			
Window Tax .....	11	1	9
Land Tax .....	3	15	0
Poor Rate .....	8	0	0
Church Rate .....	2	15	0
Rector's Rate.....	1	0	0
	<hr/>		
		26	11 9
<b>Petty Charges :</b>			
L'Institut Journal .....	15	0	
Postage and Carriage.....	17	2	2
Extra Porterage .....	1	4	0
Expenses on Foreign Packets, &c.....	7	12	9
Stamps .....	1	5	6
Cleaning Library .....		19	6
Charwoman's Wages .....	27	6	0
Extra Charwoman's work .....	3	10	6
Miscellaneous expenses .....	18	14	5
	<hr/>		
		78	9 10
<b>Total Payments ....</b>	<b>£2298</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>
Balance in the hands of the Treasurer .....	533	4	11
	<hr/>		
	<b>£2831</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>

FRANCIS BAILY, *Treasurer.*

*November 29th, 1836.*

The Treasurer remarked, that all the sums due to the Society have been collected, except £35. 2s. 0d. owing by six defaulters. And all the claims on the Society have been paid, excepting three unsettled bills amounting to about £100.

The Treasurer also made the following statement with respect to the number of Fellows, viz :

	Patron and Honorary	Foreign.	Having compound- ed.	Paying 2l. 12s. Annually.	Paying 4l. 0s. Annually.	Total.
November, 1835	10	48	598	41	96	793
Since elected .....			+9	.....	+21	
Since deceased .....		-2	-17	-4	-2	
Since compounded .....			+1	.....	-1	
Defaulters .....			.....	.....	-5	
November, 1836	10	46	591	37	109	793

The Treasurer farther remarked, that, agreeably to the practice of preceding Treasurers, the several *trust* accounts are blended with

the statement of the property belonging to the Society. But it may be the subject of consideration whether such accounts ought not, in future, to be kept totally distinct and separate. At the last anniversary there was a balance of £356. 5s. 10d. arising from the sale of MSS. to the British Museum, which, together with the balances on the Rumford and Donation funds, were then (and are now) included in the general assets of the Society; but which must be specially appropriated to particular purposes, and not to the general expenditure of the Society.